

A new Species of *Borreria* Mey, from south India

BY

N. RAVI

Sree Narayana College, Punalur

(With a plate)

Borreria eradii sp. nov. (Rubiaceae) from Kerala is described and illustrated.

***Borreria eradii* sp. nov.**

Herba annua, mollis, pilosa, viridescens vel viridi-lutea. *Caules* prostrati, decumbentes vel etiam erecti, ad 150 cm. longi, subquadrati in sectione transversa, eminenter alati, (ala inclusa) ad 8 mm. lati ad basin, alis deorsum setosopilosis, lateribus pubescentibus. Cotyledones orbiculares vel ovatae, apice retuso et vulgo persistentes; *folia* petiolata ad basin, subsessilia ad apicem, late ovata vel ellipsoidea, apice acuto vel subacuto, mollia, puberula in utraque pagina, 4-7-nervia, distincte impressa supra, ad 11.6 cm. longa petiolo incluso et 5.6 cm. lata; vagina stipularis lata, intus glabra, pilosa extus 4-8 setis apicaliter papillatis stipularibus et capillis multicellularibus e basi bulbosa longis. *Flores* ad 20 vel plures in cymis axillaribus, sessiles; sepala 4, penitus pilosa, 2 mm. longa, 1.5 mm. lata; corolla infundibuliformis, decidua, ad 10 mm. longa, ore tumescente ad 5 mm., tubo angusto, lobis 4 triangularibus valvatis; stamina 4, filamentis brevissimis; ovarium viride, pilosissimum, stylo corollae aequilongo tuberculis ornato eminentibus vulgo acutis versus dimidium superius. Fructus 4 mm. longus, 3 mm. latus, lateraliter compressus, pilosus, ventraliter dehiscens in duas valvulas, quae retinent septi partem superiorem, parte inferiore manente in centro. Semina subluteo-brunnea, 2 mm. longa et lata.

Holotypus lectus ad Punalur in St. Kerala, in India meridionali, ab N. Ravi die 20 June 1968 et positus in herb. Coll. Sree Narayana ad Quilon (KERALA) sub numero 2372 A.

***Borreria eradii* sp. nov.**

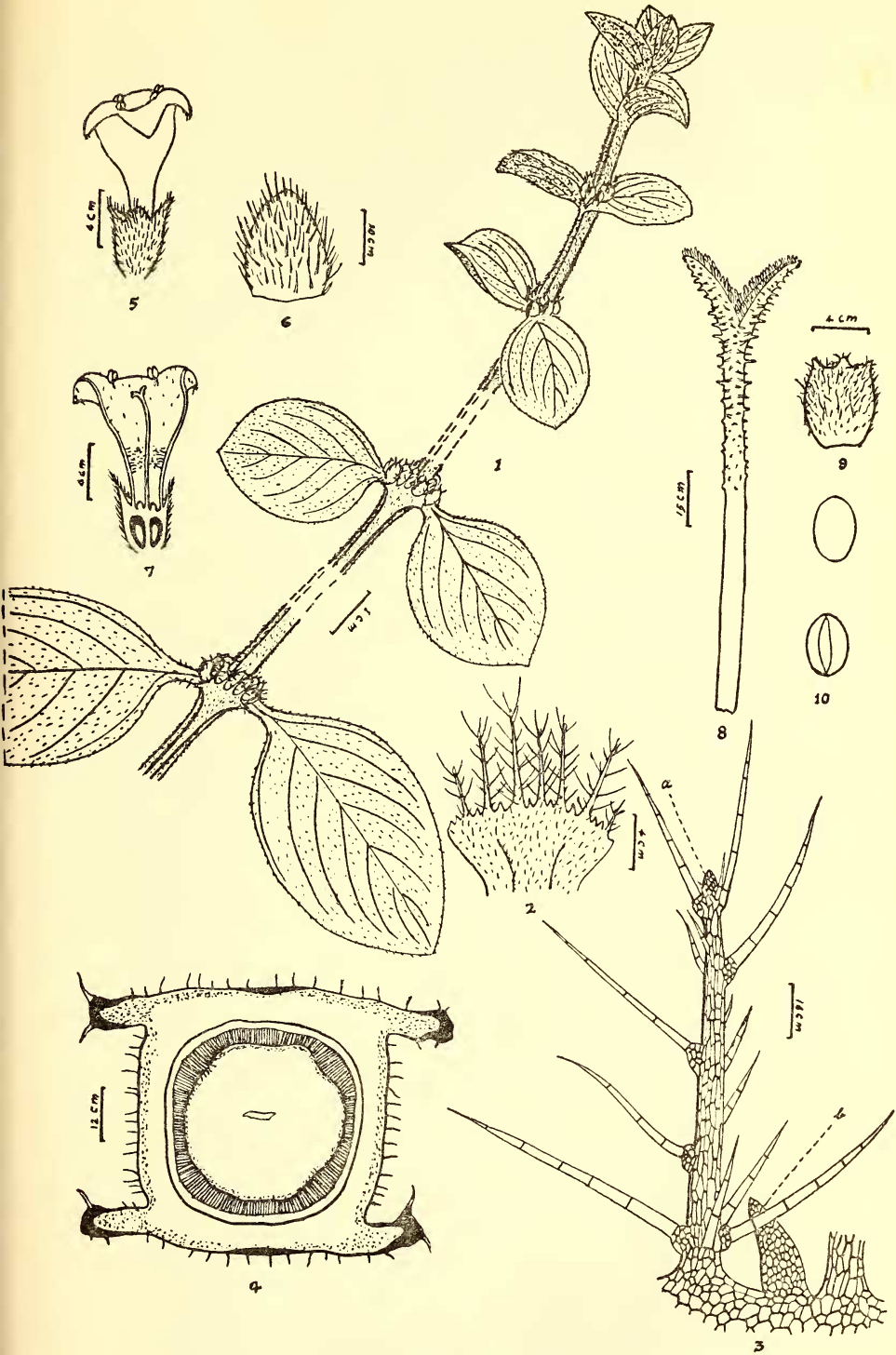
Soft, hairy, greenish to greenish yellow annual herb. Stems prostrate, decumbent or even erect, 150 cm. long, more or less

square in cross section, sometimes with a hollow pith, prominently winged, 8 mm. wide including the wing at the base, wings downwardly bristly hairy and sides pubescent. Cotyledonary leaves orbicular to ovate with a retuse tip and mostly persistent; leaves petiolate at the base to almost sessile at the top, blade broadly ovate to ellipsoid with an acute or subacute tip, soft textured, puberulous on both surfaces, 4 to 7 nerved, distinctly impressed above, 11.6 cm. long including petiole and 5.6 cm. broad; stipular sheath broad, glabrous within, hairy outside, with 4 to 8 apically papillate stipular bristles interspersed with 8 to 15 small glandular papillae and bearing bulbous based multicellular long hairs. Flowers up to 20 or more in axillary cymes, bracteate, bracteolate, sessile; sepals 4, subequal, herbaceous, green, oblong ovate, acute or obtuse, hairy throughout, 2 mm. long and 1.5 mm. broad; corolla funnel-shaped, white with a bluish tinge, fugacious, 10 mm. long, mouth swollen, 5 mm. wide, tube narrow, lobes triangular, valvate with a few bristly hairs at the back of the tip, tube villous in the middle, mouth sparsely hairy; stamens 4 with short filaments, inserted at the mouth of the corolla, anthers 2-celled, dehiscence introrse longitudinal; ovary green, very hairy, crowned by persistent sepals and a pair of white or yellowish white glands enclosing the stylar base, 2-celled, each cell one ovuled on axile placentum, style as long as the corolla, simple, slender with prominent mostly pointed tubercles towards the upper half, stigmas 2, linear. Fruits 4 mm. long and 3 mm. broad, laterally compressed, hairy, dehiscing ventrally into 2 valves, the valves carrying along with them the upper part of the septum while the lower part remaining persistent in the centre; seeds oblong ventrally grooved, shining yellowish brown, granulate, to 3 mm. long and 2 mm. broad.

Holotype collected from Punalur in Kerala State, S. India by N. Ravi on 20th June 1968 and deposited in the Herbarium of the Sree Narayana College, Quilon, No. 2372 A. The paratypes 2372 B-D are deposited in the Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah (CAL).

The specimen is being named in honour of my teacher, Prof. N. A. Erady, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, who has brought to light many new plants from Kerala.

This species has hitherto been referred by some authors to *Borreria hispida* (L) K. Schum. from which it differs in the (1) prominently winged more or less square stem, (2) impressly veined soft textured leaves, (3) apically papillate stipular bristles bearing bulbous based long multicellular hairs and interspersed with glandular papillae, (4) fugacious funnel-shaped corolla with a narrow tube abruptly widening into a swollen mouth and (5) the fruit with the lower part of the septum only remaining persistent after dehiscence. In the dehiscence of the fruit



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1. A portion of a twig; 2. Stipule; 3. A portion of the stipule; a. apical papilla; b. glandular papilla; 4. Cross section of the stem; 5. Open flower; 6. Sepal; 7. L.S. of the flower; 8. Style; 9. Fruit; 10. Seeds.